



News From the Cradle

Catholic Charities
Pregnancy Resource Center

Our Expansion Project by Erin Mickley

I know, I know, summer is just about over. All I can say is that we've been busy with lots of new projects going on here. This newsletter will highlight some of things that we have in the works right now.

There is a baby explosion going on in York. Everywhere you go, pregnant women are sure to be there. It is good to see that so many families are choosing to have their children instead of abortion. However, this summer, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of abortions performed each week at the abortion clinic. This sad fact makes our job that much more important.

It is nice to see our program growing with new clients, new volunteers, and new donors. Catholic Charities has also noticed how much positive growth is happening here and expansion plans are in the works to help other Real Alternatives sites in the

diocese.

Recently, I was asked to help the Real Alternatives site at the Catholic Charities Counseling Office in Lebanon to expand their services. This is an exciting adventure for me, and a bit scary. The Lebanon site has seen very few clients in their program. There is no parenting program, very few donations, no volunteers, and very little outreach. The counseling office mainly sees clients for mental health services and the pregnancy program has been a side program for them.

I am hopeful that we can change that. I will be traveling to Lebanon about once a week to see clients, do outreach, and grow the program. I am not expecting overnight success, but just as our program has grown over the past five years, I see good things for their future. I will continue to see my clients here and life will go on as usual at the Catholic

Charities Pregnancy Resource Center. However, we could always use some people to help in the fundraising and donation world. See page 3 for some more information about helping.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we deal with this transition. This project is going to take a lot of work, a lot of driving, and a lot of organization to get it started. I am confident that our volunteers will be doing an awesome job while I am in Lebanon and our program will continue to provide quality, supportive, and caring services to our families.

*On a side note, if any of our readers know of any contacts who can help us in the Lebanon County community, we'd love to hear about them. Just as "word of mouth" is our best referral source here, connecting with contacts will really be an asset to us. Thanks!

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Special points of interest:

- Thoughts from our families
- Possible Fundraising and Outreach Opportunities

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End of the Fiscal Year Stats:

- *196 new clients joined our program from July 2007-July 2008
 - *Over 700 hours of counseling and referral minutes were billed
 - *24 Pregnancy Tests were administered
 - *581 pantry visit were billed
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Family Thoughts

We recently asked some of our families to write in their own words what brought them to our program. Here are some of their thoughts.

"Catholic Charities was recommend by my Mom Matters program through Gateway (an insurance company). It has taught me so much already and is really helping us to prepare for our son. My husband is involved in my classes which earns more money to buy brand new items....This program is saving me almost \$200 just by participating. They help us get diapers, clothing for the baby, and even clothing for myself. It is a huge help. The program they have set up is a real eye-opener on how much you'll need and the ways that others can help you out. No one should feel ashamed of receiving extra help, believe me, you'll love the help Catholic Charities supplies you"

Benla, age 20.

"Let me start off by saying how I got in the program. I got pregnant and someone who works at Catholic Charities told me a little about the program and set me up with my first appointment. So I went and I've been there since. I am a mother of 6 and there were things I didn't know. I have learned about SIDS and to me, not enough people know about it. I had a niece that had passed away from SIDS and now through this program, I feel I will be much more cautious. An amazing thing I learned is how my unborn son reacts to music, another very important thing I learned is how certain organs and

parts of the baby develop at certain months of pregnancy. So even if you are a new mother or have children already and pregnant, there is always something you don't know. And there are also ways to earn things for your baby like a crib or clothes, so in the end it is a win-win situation. You become more knowledgeable and benefit by earning things."

Steph, age 30

"Catholic Charities helped me a lot in the past and in the future. When I was pregnant with my first child I was scared and worried. Scared to deliver and care for my very own child. Worried if I would get everything I needed to provide for my child. When I went to Catholic Charities, they taught me a lot and also helped me provide for my child from diapers to a bassinet. Anything I needed for my child, I could get there and no longer worry. At Christmas, they even helped to get my son gifts, something I could not afford to do. After awhile, I moved away to Florida with my mom for about two months. Now I am pregnant with my second child and I came back to Catholic Charities. Not only for the help, but for a nice caring person to talk to when I feel like I need to talk or ask questions. I gladly appreciate everything they have done and are continuing to do for me."

Cynthia, age 19

"I was brought to Catholic Charities by an unexpected pregnancy. One of my best friends works for the agency, and when I told her about the pregnancy, she told me she might have the perfect program for me! She knew I was scared about being able to supply all of the needs for this new life as well as my wonderful three year old. This program has been amazing for my daughter. She looks forward to coming and learning what the baby is doing and looking like. She even tells people what she learned! It has been such a relief to know I have this support and outlet. I think this is an amazing program."

Angie, age 25



Croquet—It's Not Your Grandmother's Game Anymore!



In keeping with our theme of change and growth, we met with the Catholic Charities development director to explore different avenues of fundraising and outreach. We wanted to do a larger event since we are in the midst of such a growth spurt. Instead of the standard golf tournament or a run/walk, we wanted to do something different that would be fun for adults and families. We are considering holding a croquet tournament next year to benefit our program. We think it would be a unique way to raise money for the program.

We would need **A LOT** of help to get this project going. We are anticipating that

it could take 6 months to a year to fully plan the event. We need to form a committee to plan. The committee would be responsible for securing sponsors, planning the event, and outreach to the local community. We would also need about 20-25 volunteers for the actual tournament day to help with registration, tournament referees, set-up and break-down. Sponsors are also required to make the event happen. Sponsorship can happen in several forms from small donations to large.

We are in the initial planning phases of this project, and since it is our first big fundraiser, we are just getting our feet wet with all that needs to be done. **Without the help of volunteers and sponsors, we will not be able to hold this event.**

Please consider donating your time and talent to this project. If you are feeling that this is something you would love to help out with or you have lots of experience doing, we want you!

Any questions, thoughts, or ideas for this event, please contact our office at 843-7986 x 229. We'd love to have an initial planning meeting to get the process started.

Five Amazing Years

Five years old! Can you believe it?

This September, our program will be celebrating its 5th birthday. We are so excited to be able to serve so many families in the York County area, over 800 to be exact. That's 800+ moms and dads who were supported through their

pregnancy or their child's first year.

We could not have done any of this without your help! Please know that your support of our program is greatly appreciated by the program, but more importantly by the families. The fundraisers, donation drives, homemade blankets,

prayers, and Adopt-a-Family mean so much to every person who walks through our doors.

We're looking forward to the next five years. Thank you again!

Thank You!

We love to recognize our community supporters. Our services would fall apart without so much support!

- ◇ The Peaceful Justice Ministry of St. John the Baptist in New Freedom promoted a donation drive for our program during the month of May. It was a great success and we are very excited about the new partnership with them.
- ◇ The Mother's Group of St. Rose of Lima's Church coordinated a "Love them Both" donation drive in May. Parishioners were asked to fill bags with needed items. It took several hours and volunteers from St. Rose of Lima to organize everything,
- ◇ St. Mary's Parish for sponsoring a donation drive during the month of August. The parish is so generous every time we hold this donation!
- ◇ Colonial York Knitter's Guild for continuing to make such beautiful blankets for our babies. Our moms love them!

Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center

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Upcoming Events

Adopt-a-Family will be starting in November. Check out the next newsletter for details.

**Bon-Ton Community Day Event
Saturday, November 15th, 2008
Get your coupon booklets now!**

The Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit program established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Real Alternatives Program and housed in the Catholic Charities Intensive Family Services Office. We provide services to women and their partners who are pregnant, possibly pregnant, or biological parents of a child under the age of 12 months. Our program offers life-affirming alternatives to abortion for women, their partners, and their families who are encountering an unplanned pregnancy. We provide parenting education, adoption information, free pregnancy testing, and referrals to community resources as well as maternity and infant assistance.

All services are free, regardless of income.



Our Wish List

Our Wish List helps us to keep our emergency baby and maternity item pantry shelves full.

- New cribs or donations for new cribs
- New and gently used infant (up to 2T) and maternity clothing
- Baby care supplies (wash, lotion, diaper rash cream, powder, and shampoo, travel and full sizes)
- New infant car seats
- Diapers (Preemie to size 5, especially size 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Baby wipes (Travel and full size)
- Similac Advance, Isomil Advance, Similac Alimentum formula
- Baby food (Stages 1, 2, and 3)
- Bottles, nipples, pacifiers, bottle liners, breast milk storage bags, bottle brushes
- Department store, grocery store, or discount store gift cards
- Monetary donations payable to: Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center
- Emergency supplies of non-perishable food items (soups, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, etc), toiletries and toilet paper
- Baby and toiletry item coupons

All donations are tax-deductible. Currently, we have about 11 women due in the fall months, and more people are joining our program each week. Each donation helps us to support their decision to choose life for their baby.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Counselor volunteer
- Fundraiser/ Donation Drive coordinator (We have a large need for this volunteer position!)

For more information on sponsoring a donation drive, making a donation, or volunteering with our program, please contact Erin Mickley at 843-7986 x 229.

